

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A screening assay for identifying a selective IPC synthase inhibitor which assay comprises contacting a test compound with engineered funga cells whose capability to synthesize sphingolipids depends on the addition of exogenous phytosphingosine and which are capable of sustained growth via compensatory phospholipids, adding phytosphingosine, and determining IPC synthase inhibition by the test compound by reference to any cell growth inhibition.
2. (Currently amended) Engineered cells whose capability to synthesize sphingolipids depends on the addition of exogenous phytosphingosine and which are capable of sustained growth via compensatory phospholipids, wherein the cells comprise an lcb1 allele and overexpress an SLC1-1 gene that is operably linked to a heterologous promoter.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously presented) Engineered cells whose capability to synthesize sphingolipids depends on the addition of exogenous phytosphingosine and which are capable of sustained growth via compensatory phospholipids, wherein the host strain is an lcb1/SLC1-1 strain and wherein the SLC1-1 gene is under the control of the glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GPD3) promoter.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously presented) *S. cerevisiae* yeast cells comprising an lcb1 allele and overexpressing an SLC1-1 gene that is operably linked to a heterologous promoter, wherein the promoter is glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GPD3).
7. (Withdrawn) A selective IPC synthase inhibitor identified using the method of claim 1.

8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously presented) The cells of claim 8 2, wherein the promoter is selected from the phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK) promoter, the enolase 1 (ENO) promoter, the pyruvate kinase (PYK) promoter, and the fructose-bisphosphate aldolase II (FBA) promoter.
10. (Previously presented) The assay of claim 1, wherein the cells comprise an lcb1 allele and overexpress an SLC1-1 gene that is operably linked to a heterologous promoter.
11. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ assay of claim 10, wherein the promoter is selected from the phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK) promoter, the enolase 1 (ENO) promoter, the pyruvate kinase (PYK) promoter, and the fructose-bisphosphate aldolase II (FBA) promoter.
12. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ assay of claim 10, wherein the SLC1-1 gene is under the control of the glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GPD3) promoter.
13. (Currently amended) The ~~method~~ assay of claim 12, wherein the cells are *S. cerevisiae* yeast cells.